

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of generating a componentized user interface, the method comprising:

- (a) providing a first set of interface elements with a framework;
- (b) providing a second set of interface elements with a first plug-in that is linked to the framework;
- (c) providing a third set of interface elements with a second plug-in that is linked to the framework;
- (d) hosting the first plug-in and the second plug-in with a shell linked to the framework, and
- (e) providing an interface between the shell and the first plug-in and between the shell and the second plug-in with a shell adapter interface, in order to utilize the second set of interface elements and the third set of interface elements, wherein the shell adapter interface maps functions of the first plug-in and functions of the second plug-in to functions of the shell.

2. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the first plug-in comprises:

- (i) a first file that provides an interface between the framework and the first plug-in; and
- (ii) a second file written in a markup language and that includes menu elements.

3. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein the menu elements are selected from the group consisting of a toolbar, a status bar, and a menu bar.

4. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the second plug-in comprises:

- (i) a first file that provides an interface between the framework and the second plug-in; and
- (ii) a second file written in a markup language and that includes menu elements.

5. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 4, wherein the menu elements are selected from the group consisting of a toolbar, a status bar, and a menu bar.

6. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the framework is configured to discover the first plug-in and the second plug-in.

7. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 6, wherein the framework further comprises a user interface component loader to load the first plug-in and the second plug-in.

8. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein the first file comprises an executable file and the second file comprises an extensible markup language (XML).

9. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein the first file comprises an executable file and the second file comprises a standard generalized markup language (SGML).

10. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 4, wherein the first file comprises an executable file and the second file comprises an extensible markup language (XML).

11. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 4, wherein the first file comprises an executable file and the second file comprises a standard generalized markup language (SGML).

12. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the framework is configured to provide the first set of interface elements for a plurality of applications

13. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the second set and the third set of interface elements comprise interface elements for the same application.

14. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the second set of interface elements comprises interface elements for a first application and the third set of interface elements comprise interface elements for a second application that is different from the first application.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method of providing extensibility to a user interface, the method comprising:

- (a) providing a framework, the framework comprising a first set of interface elements and a user interface component loader, the framework configured to discover a plug-in located in a plug-in directory;
- (b) loading the plug-in with the user interface component loader, the plug-in to provide a second set of interface elements;
- (c) hosting the plug-in with a shell linked to the framework; and
- (d) providing an interface between the shell and the plug-in with a shell adapter interface in order to utilize the second set of interface elements, wherein the shell adapter interface maps functions of the plug-in to functions of the shell.

16. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 15, wherein the plug-in comprises:

- (i) a first file that provides an interface between the framework and the plug-in; and
- (ii) a second file written in a markup language and that includes menu elements.

17. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 16, wherein the menu elements are selected from the group consisting of a toolbar, a status bar, and a menu bar.

18. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 16, wherein the first file comprises an executable file and the second file comprises an extensible markup language (XML).

19. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 16, wherein the first file comprises an executable file and the second file comprises a standard generalized markup language (SGML).

20. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 15, wherein the framework is configured to provide the first set of interface elements for a plurality of applications.

21. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 15, wherein the method further comprises:

- (e) loading a second plug-in with the user interface component loader, the second plug-in to provide a third set of interface elements;
- (f) hosting the second plug-in with a shell linked to the framework; and

(g) providing an interface between the shell and the second plug-in with a second shell adapter interface in order to utilize the third set of interface elements.

22. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 21, wherein the second set and the third set of interface elements comprise interface elements for the same application.

23. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 21, wherein the second set of interface elements comprises interface elements for a first application and the third set of interface elements comprise interface elements for a second application that is different from the first application.

24-25. (Cancelled).